## Demands for Supplementary Grants.

1. *VI—Stamps—Cranganur—Rs. 254.*

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 254 under 'VI—Stamps'. An allotment of Rs. 1,200 has been sanctioned under 'VI—Stamps' in the Cranganur budget on account of the cost of both Anchal and Revenue stamps. This amount has since been bifurcated into Rs. 800 under 'VI—Stamps' and Rs. 400 under 'VIII—Anchal'. The actual cost of Revenue stamps supplied to Cranganur comes to Rs. 1,053-4-6 and that of Anchal stamps Rs. 484-4-6. Savings are not available for re-appropriation to meet the increased demand. An additional grant of Rs. 254 under 'VI—Stamps-(b) cost of stamps and stamp-papers' has, therefore, to be sanctioned.

Question proposed: *That the additional grant asked for may be granted.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

2. *VIII—Anchal—Cranganur—Rs. 85.*

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 85 under 'VIII—Anchal-(d) I-Cost of Anchal and Service Stamps' in the Cranganur budget. The details I have already explained. I request that the amount may be sanctioned.

Question proposed: '*That the additional grant asked for may be granted.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

## Voting of Demands for Grants.

### 15. Demand No. XXI.—Medical—Rs. 2,41,798 (*contd.*)

**President.**—The demand for 'Medical' was moved yesterday and the cut motions are proposed to be considered to-day. I believe you have made a full statement on the subject.

### Motion No. 1.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,460 for Temporary Establishment by Re. 1.*

**President.**—The first motion stands in the name of Mr. K. Ayyappan. He is absent.

*Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.*

### Motion No. 2.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,460 for Temporary Establishment by Rs. 900.*

**President.**—Motion No. 2, Mr. Ezhuthassan.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Before I move the cut, may I know whether there is a permanent store-keeper?

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The provision is with regard to the appointment of a temporary staff, one store-keeper and two clerks. Is there any permanent store-keeper?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—No.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—I don't move my cut motion.

*Hence it was considered withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 3.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,460 for Temporary Establishment by Rs. 540.*

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—May I know what is on the back of my cut motion?

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—It is good for your benefit also.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—It is a little difficult to decipher it. It is, I trust, something to this effect: "This is unnecessary as medicines can be brought to the door of institutions".

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—It is regarding the packers and store-keeper. Sir, I move for the omission of this Rs. 540 for two packers and one store-keeper that have to be employed as an experiment. The idea is excellent. I commend the idea. But I do not think that the purpose of the experiment is served. The idea is to effect economy and upon that idea of effecting economy we have got expenses. That is the trouble. This expense can be avoided because medicines, foreign medicines, that are brought, are packed for the different hospitals in the State and the dispensaries at the other end in England. They come here whatever be our arrangement. The clearing charges we have to incur in any way. Then it is the question of forwarding. If we give in our tender in the coming year that the respective medicines shall be forwarded to the respective stations, this expenditure we can avoid, because, when the long distance like this is taken into consideration, 100 miles or 200 miles make no difference. They make their charges by the long distance, just as in a Railway where for 1 mile or 10 miles the same charges are levied. If it is 100 miles or fraction of 5 miles, you have to pay rates on 100. So that, if we ask the suppliers to supply to the different stations, the medicines will go direct and this expenditure you can save. I am only upon a purely economic proposition, not to show our disregard or disapproval or anything of the sort. It is only a mere economic proposition. I commend the idea of saving that money. I say this money can also be saved if direction is given to supply the medicine at the respective Railway stations of dispensaries concerned. That has been

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the custom before. Ferris and Company in their contract during the time used to supply at their own cost all these things at the respective stations.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—It is one of the conditions of the present contract also.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I, therefore, move that cut.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—What was the contract?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—They were directed only to bring to the Cochin Port and the Cochin Port made arrangements with Messrs. Pierce Leslie and Company to pay duties, customs and clearing charges and send them to their respective places, and they used to charge a certain amount which, if worked out, came to a little more than two per cent on the total cost of the European medicines. If we wanted 1,000 rupees worth of medicine, we had to pay two per cent over and above that.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I do not think that the two per cent is both for clearing and forwarding.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—For everything.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—All these things we have to meet, because I do not think the Cochin State could make arrangements to take things from the Steamer. They will charge the clearing charges. It is only a question of forwarding. If we put in our tender that these respective medicines should be forwarded to the respective stations, then I say this expenditure can be avoided. It is only a question of putting that clearly in the tender that the medicines are to be supplied at the respective stations, namely, so and so, so and so and so and so. A list can be inserted in the tender. They will make arrangements. I am sure you will get people to give you the medicines at the present rates without a single pie's additional cost. And if there are none known to the Chief Medical Officer, I shall submit names and I have got names who will do that.

**President.**—Do you want the motion to be discussed?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Yes; it is only an individual motion.

**Dr. E. A. Veigas.**—I would like to know whether these packages of medicines are sent straight off to the different hospitals.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—They used to be sent straight.

**Dr. E. A. Veigas.**—Not now?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—No.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—Is there a peon in the store-room to pack?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—No peon.

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**Dr. E. A. Veigas.**—Is this for each hospital? Then why do you want a separate man for it? There are supplementary indents coming into the hospital and we require a man to pack and send them. It may be for that purpose.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Exactly.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Hitherto it was going on alright without the packers.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Sir, besides the European drugs that we get down from England there is a large number of drugs which are purchased locally. They are all in a very large bulk and even before they used to be got locally.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—By local do you mean from India, from the Madras Presidency or from Cochin? The word 'local' may be explained.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—From India as contrasted from European import.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—The locality may be described.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I will enumerate them and the Hon'ble Member will understand what they are. Castor oil is a medicine which is got locally. There was about Rs. 1,500 worth of castor oil bought last year and you can imagine the bulk. It comes in large drums. It is got here and then distributed to the various dispensaries,—

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—From where? I want the locality.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—From Trichur. Rectified spirit is obtained from the Trichur Distillery. That comes here periodically for the purpose of dilution of concentrated tinctures. For the sake of economy, I introduced the system of getting down concentrated tinctures and getting rectified spirit from the Trichur Distillery and dilute them here, which gives us a considerable saving in the matter of duty. That is a process which takes two or three months to complete, and then they are distributed carefully packed. There is no tincture brought from Europe direct to the hospitals. All these tinctures are brought in the Central Stores and diluted and then distributed. So a considerable amount of packing and keeping of accounts is required.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Diluted by expert hands or ordinary coolies?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Diluted by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, and the present store clerk is a passed compounder as well. His services were utilised in that way also. Further, we get a large supply of quinine. That also comes in very large bulk and has got to be distributed not only

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to all the hospitals but also to 46 or 56 different places for distribution all over the malarial tracts.

**President.**—Where do you get this quinine from?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—From the British Government Cincchona Factory, Oottacamund. We get it direct from Madras. Medicines like turpentine which come in large drums are not imported from Europe. Last year I got it through Mr. Koder. Our institutions have increased in number, as I said. For the distribution of quinine and diluted tinctures there must be a staff to pack and despatch them. We had no other hand all these years. We used to manage with borrowed help from the servants of the General Hospital. The work of the General Hospital has increased, and so I brought this to the notice of the Government and showed that, when an extra expenditure was going from the coffers of the State for the 2 per cent we were giving to the local clearing and distributing agents, the pay of the store-keeper and packers will be covered by this sum and there will be still a saving.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—From which place did you get turpentine?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I got it through Mr. Koder.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—I did not catch it, that is why I asked.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Castor oil, turpentine and quinine are purchased locally and packed here. So it is impossible to carry on without a man in the Stores. That is all, Sir.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Can you arrange with the suppliers to supply all these things direct to the hospitals, any quantities required for each hospital?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—They will charge more. The net result will be the Government will be a loser.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Have you tried it?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I have tried. We have been doing it. But the expense would be much more than the combined pay of the packers and the store clerk.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—That is English contracts. The Trichur man supplies you with castor oil. Can't you ask him to supply to Chittur and other nearer hospitals from there? Quinine you get from Madras. Can't you indent in tins of so many pounds to be sent to such and such a dispensary, and similarly turpentine?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—The Madras Government has declined to do that.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Castor oil, Sir?

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**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I am getting it distributed from Trichur for all the surrounding places.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—The whole castor oil does not come here?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—No.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—To which other places do they supply? Chittur Taluk and Talappalli Taluk ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Yes, all those places north of Trichur.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—South? Irinjalakkuda is nearer to Trichur than to Ernakulam.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I do not know whether Irinjalakkuda is included or not. All the places near Trichur are being supplied.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Irinjalakkuda is only 14 miles from Trichur, while Kunnamkulam is more than 14 miles.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—It may be distributed from there.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—May I know whether these castor oil, quinine and turpentine are supplied in bulk packed in non-breakable material or glass ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—They are supplied here in drums. Castor oil,.....

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Castor oil can be supplied in tins, so also quinine and turpentine in packages. So excepting tinctures all the rest can be had packed originally.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Yes. The question is, whoever undertakes that work for us will certainly charge. It is not a charitable business. It is a commercial business. I am sure and I have showed that this is cheaper. Who is going to do all that without adequate remuneration ? Now you want a person to do all that. Even the clearing from the Cochin Port is being now done by us, and I have shown that this is economical. That is what I say. We were paying 2 per cent. Pay 2 per cent to any one here. I worked it up and found that this is cheaper and more economical and we have got the advantage of the man on the spot to do all the other work.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—The packing and sending of castor oil to Ernakulam, then the repacking and sending from Ernakulam to the other hospitals, would we not in this system be spending much more than by asking the suppliers to send the things direct to the Railway Stations ? The medicines coming from Oottaccamund and Madras have to come through the Shoranur-Cochin Railway. We pay the Railway freight right through to Ernakulam and back from Ernakulam to the different stations. Now, when you take all that, the economy shall be got. I am prepared to grant the whole

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demand, if I am satisfied with the economic benefit of it, because it has to come here packed and it has to be repacked and given back to the different stations. All the medicines which you take in bulk from Trichur have to be repacked after reaching Ernakulam. Another question is, we have been having a reserve Central Store all these years and we have been meeting supplementary indents from the reserve stores and all these years we managed to carry on the work without these packers and storekeepers, and what is the present necessity? How many institutions have been added excepting the 6 or 7 rural dispensaries? How many more hospitals have been started? Again, I would like to know how many new dispensaries and hospitals have been started during the last four years and, therefore, the number of institutions is only a negligible quantity, if there has been any increase at all. The only increase is in the rural dispensaries, which is immaterial. After all, the amount is only Rs. 600. What I say is, as regards the distribution of quinine, it is supplied in the Post Offices by the Government. I do not understand why the Madras Government should say that quinine will not be supplied to the different hospitals when we say so much quinine is required.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—You must ask the Madras Government about it.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I must see the correspondence.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I think there was a promise that quinine will be freely distributed.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—We have started that, but not through the Post Office.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I would like to be satisfied that the Madras Government declined to distribute to the various stations. It has been said so.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I have said that. They cannot take all the trouble. I have got all the papers in respect of that. It is simply to save the trouble of packing that I asked whether they would put in tablets so that it will serve the purpose. If I gave 10 pounds quinine to the school master there it will be very difficult for him. So they are brought here in tablets and distributed in tins from here with necessary directions in Malayalam. They refused to do it.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—What I am asking is whether they refused to send the medicines to particular places. They have refused to supply quinine to towns. If you ask them to kindly send two pounds of quinine addressed to Trichur, I can fancy no difficulty in their way, whether the address is in Malayalam or not, whether the address is to Irinjalakkuda or to Chalakkudi. I

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could find no earthly reason. If the Madras Government has said that, it is very unreasonable.

**President.**—You may ask them. The discussion must take its usual course.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—That is one point. From the Central Stores supplementary indents have been met. How was that done all these years? What is the necessity for additional hands in the coming year? It is admitted that all foreign imports go direct. Four articles have been mentioned for supplementary indent: quinine, tinctures, castor oil and turpentine. Supposing we send them ourselves, the breakages we can not claim from anybody else. What can we do? We pack and send. At least we can claim the insurance or ask the suppliers to make good. Like ordinary merchants you get down medicine. I am not yet satisfied that this expenditure is, from an economic point of view, advantageous or justifiable.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I have been pressing upon the Government about this purchase and supply of medicines for the last four years, and I am very glad to learn that after all Government have come to the conclusion that there was something, there was some basis for my frequent request, persistent complaints in this House. I say I have to apologise for a lot of things to you, and you too have to apologise for a lot of things to me as well. You have to answer for so many things and I have also to answer.

And in this question I remember various interpretations put upon my speech and upon my attitude, and after all was said and done, you came to the conclusion that there was substantial, sufficient reason for taking notice of the complaints I raised. I am, Sir, thankful for that,—many thanks to the Government—and let that be a lesson to study the question when I press it here. Some Hon'ble Members might say 'let him bawl out, we do not care'; it cannot hurt me. As I said, you have to apologise to me and I too have to apologise to you.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Not I.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—You say 'you', 'you', and you are addressing the President.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I said 'I have to apologise,' my friend.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—To whom?

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—To whomsoever.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—We wish to know more distinctly. If you can explain, please do so. What it is that you mean by 'you' we would like to know.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I did not mean you or anybody else I was very clear What I said was you have to apologise and I

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have to apologise, *i. e.*, I have to answer for certain things and the Government has to answer for others.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—So, 'you' means Government.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—Yes. I have much to answer for the Government. That is what is suggested. It is very clear. It is quite easily understood; you must listen.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—For what is it that the Government have to apologise to you ? What is it ?

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—If the Government asks me, I shall answer.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—You are addressing this House, and you are also making various charges against the Government. We would also like to know what they are.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—That is a matter between the Government and myself.

The other point referred to by the Hon'ble Member for Jews is that in all these matters it would be better to send medicines directly to the various hospitals and dispensaries at least packed readily so that they may be sent to the respective hospitals. I think there will be some savings, if you will follow this principle. And I believe it was the custom here some time ago when Dr. Coombes was the Medical Officer. At that time he used to get all these things from Messrs. Ferris and Co., and Ferris and Co. sent these things directly addressed to the various hospitals and dispensaries, and as soon as they reach there they go to the respective stores. I would like the Department to consider this aspect of the case. If they can effect any saving, then it would be a desirable change from the present method.

Then the third point brought to the notice of the Government is that the medicine supplied to the hospitals and dispensaries is not sufficient. I would like the Government to give the same quantity of medicines or the cost of medicines to the various rural dispensaries as they do in British India. They are becoming very useful institutions, and if the Government make enquiries, they will find that the rural dispensaries have come to stay and they are doing very good work. I would also ask the Government to extend their generosity and to give these rural dispensaries some more allowance, *i. e.*, the same allowance that their colleagues get in British territories. There it comes to nearly Rs. 900, but here it is only Rs. 600. At least put Rs. 150 more and make it Rs. 750 and start a few more dispensaries.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Three more I am going to start this year.

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**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—Start a number of dispensaries and give them a little more. You cannot give them wages as much as they deserve. At least give them as much as they get in British India. What do you pay now, Sir ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Rs 600 in all; Rs. 240 as medicines and Rs. 360 for pay.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I want the Government to consider whether they could be a little more generous to these people and also whether they could increase the allotments for medicines for the rural dispensaries and start more dispensaries.

**Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—I want to know whether the adulteration takes place on the other side of the water or is it done here ?

**President.**—It is under the Chief Medical Officer. That is only with regard to the concentrated tinctures.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—That is the best portion of the medical supply.

**Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—Do you want a staff for that ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—If I have a staff, it would be much better.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—I think you were doing it without any staff for the last three years.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—There was no special staff. We used to get it done with the assistance of an Assistant Surgeon and compounders. Now the work in the General Hospital has increased and I cannot get the services of the compounders which we used to get. So also in the case of Surgeons, they have got enough work and they have no time to spare.

**President.**—What is your doubt, Mr. Salem ?

**Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—After all it is only a small sum.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—In view of the fact that it is only a paltry sum of Rs. 540, I do not press the motion. We will grant that.

**Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—If everything is done well, it is worth spending Rs. 45 a month.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 4.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for dietary charges by Re. 1.*

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I tabled this motion for the purpose of calling attention to the Government that these dietary contracts are in my view not up to the mark. I want to use as much mild words as possible in dealing with this Department,

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because there may be an impression that I have got something within me and animating me in stating these things. Certainly not. I want to dispel that from the minds of Hon'ble Members.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—What is that?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—You know more than I know.

I am bound not to lay myself open to any charges and I am going to use words as mild as possible.

There has been a question asked 'whether the contracts were satisfactory,' and I elucidated an answer stating that no deviation is being made in the case of these contracts. But, that, in my view, is not correct. A deviation has been made. The invitation for tendering said that the contractor should make a deposit for the satisfactory working of the contract. But the deposits were not taken from the contractor. What happened was: the contractor supplied dietary articles for the first month and submitted his bill. Then from that bill a certain amount was withheld to go to the deposit amount. In the course of the contract, recoveries from the bills are being made to make this deposit. Now, what happened is this. I have got one grievance from the public point of view. If this contractor had a deposit there, and if he makes any default in the payment of the dues to any merchant for articles purchased of him for the fulfilment of this contract, the deposit money in the hands of the Chief Medical Officer is available for attachment. Now, when these recoveries are being made very slowly, and if, in the meantime, he lets go his contract and washes his hands off by assigning his contract to somebody else, and if he assigns also his liabilities and assets, those who have advanced him money will find it very difficult to recover the money from him.

**President.**—Let them be on their guard.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—They must be on their guard. But they look at the tender notification, they look at the contract affair and from these they think that there are big deposits with the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer. 'We do not care about that; let them be on their guard.' All these are no justifications. There is no use of justifying like that. There is the deposit, and I have seen that the man—the Government contractor—had so much money with the Government; so Government may certainly facilitate his getting the money from the contractor. I say, therefore, it is wrong in misleading and to make any deviation in a Government contract. I can understand in the case of private parties they may do whatever they like. But in the case of a Government contract, if they deviate from the conditions, the public will have to suffer. So, Government contracts must be according to the very letter of the Government notification.

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There should be no irregularities in the contracts as if it is one's private business. It is upon the regularity and the fixity of Government actions that people put their trust. I say that trust will be shaken if you deviate from the terms of the contract. I say there are so many people who are willing to come forward and fulfil all the conditions of the contract. So that, to make this deviation is very improper. I have known one or two cases in which contractors went away from the place altogether leaving the place, putting Government people into difficulties, putting hospitals into difficulties, the contractors into difficulties, and the merchants from whom they have taken the articles into difficulties. I insist that, in these dietary contracts, there should be no deviation of any kind on the part of the contractors or the Government. Whatever may happen, at least in future there should be no deviation from the terms of the contract. It is to point out this that I moved this cut motion. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to adopt that in future.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—The Hon'ble Member is referring to contracts of dietary articles in hospitals and especially of the General Hospital or Mattancheri Hospital?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—No. Everywhere, in every hospital I know how they are put to difficulties. I need not dilate upon that. I simply went upon the principle, Sir. As a matter of fact, there are complaints. They say they were managing themselves better. They say, 'why should the Chief Medical Officer trouble himself.' In every hospital they say 'we have been managing with this system. We are put to troubles.' I am not referring to any of these things at all. I am only upon the principle.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—This question of getting any deposit at all from the contractors for dietary articles was introduced in the State for the first time in 1104. Although the system of not taking any deposit from contractors has been going on for all these years, I did it for the sake of security, because, in the previous year, I encountered some difficulty as regards some of the dietary contracts. Having introduced this system in the State for the first time, all of the dietary contractors poured in with petitions to me praying to recover it from the bills due to them, recover it by monthly instalments. That was what happened. I did not know whether it was a deviation; I considered it was not. It was a system introduced by me for the first time for the sake of security. I thought I could exercise my discretion, and I did not consider that this rule

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was any deviation from the rules as laid down by the Government. Their request was that the deposit might be made from the bills. Of course there is no deviation. In three or four months they paid the whole deposit amount.

**President.**—Supposing you insisted on their producing the amount of security before the contract was given, what will be the result?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Well, I dare say people will be forthcoming to do it. Having introduced it for the first time, they found it very hard. All these dietary contractors had not to give any security before. When I introduced this security system for the first time, they petitioned to me that it might be taken away. I said that I would take the deposit amount in instalments. I think, if I insisted that the security amount should be deposited before the contract is given, there will be people forthcoming to pay the deposit and then take up the contract. It was done for the first time and was not treated like contracts in the Public Works Department. I did not find anything wrong in taking deposits by instalments. I do not know if the Hon'ble Member has suffered anything personally from the introduction of this rule.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—No, not at all.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Still I did not think that there was a departure from the well-established custom, that is all. I have really no objection to order for full deposits. What I say is that there was no deviation at all.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—What I say is, you asked for the deposits, but you did not take it.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I asked for it and I took it in this way.

**President.**—May I take it that you have withdrawn the motion?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Yes.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 5.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for bedding and clothing by Re. 1.*

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—May I know from whom the bedding, clothing, etc., necessary for the Department are purchased?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Just before I proceed to answer this, may I proceed to throw some light on the previous cut motion of the Member for Jews?

I was not sure whether the stipulation of taking deposits beforehand was in the notification. We did not notify that

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deposits should be made. I was wondering if I had made any express stipulation which the repeated remarks of the Member led one to believe. So I wanted to verify and I sent for the notification and now I find that there was no stipulation of any deposit beforehand and that is the reason why I did not insist upon it and why I did not take the full deposit at the beginning.

**President.**—There was no such condition in the tender?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—No.

**President.**—Mr. Salem, how did you know that?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—From the answer tabled here.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—What is the answer? Please read the answer.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—The answer given is 'no deviation was made'.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Not that. Please read the whole question and answer. I will explain to you.

**President.**—I think it was only answered in this session.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—When I gave that answer, I looked into this matter. He asked whether there were any contracts where deposits were not taken and I answered that from Ferris and Co. we were not taking deposits.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I asked particularly dietary contracts. I had even made a pointed reference to one Raya Vadhyar.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—Any way he has withdrawn the motion.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—May I know from where and from whom the present supply of clothing, bedding, etc., is got? Is it from Cochin or outside?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—A good portion from the Central Jail, Trichur, a small portion I am getting from the Mental Hospital, Trichur,—I have said it in this House that as a recreation I have introduced weaving in the Mental Hospital—dusters and the like, and from the Trades School and some other items like blankets I purchased locally, not from Europe, but from the Swadesi Stores.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—I do not move the cut motion.

*Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 6.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for bedding and clothing by Re. 1.*

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I am glad to hear that, in some of these hospitals, supplies are taken as far as possible from local

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manufacturers. I say, if that can be introduced, all our supplies can be taken from the Jail or at least from the local manufacturers. We have two weaving institutions, one at Trippunittura and one at Adoor, Sitarams, etc., and from these local people they may be purchased.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—There is the Government School.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I don't mind anywhere. After all, these are for the sick and the poor.

**President.**—You pointed out that in the Finance Committee.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—He is not a Member there.

**President.**—But he has got the order.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I don't move the motion.

*Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 7.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 90,000 for purchase of medicines, etc., by Re. 1.*

**President.**—Motion No. 7.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—This is tabled for bringing home to the Government the fact that most of the hospitals—and I can speak with some amount of information as far as Vadakkancheri dispensary is concerned—have been without the sufficient quantity of medicine for several months. The hospitals are without medicine, and certainly there is the trouble resulting from such a thing. I understand that the last supply of medicine was in the year 1103 about the month of Medam.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—23rd April 1929.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—My information, as far as Vadakkancheri hospital is concerned, is that the indent sent up has not been answered. To bring home this fact to the Government, and to urge upon the necessity of supplying medicine in time and that in sufficient quantities is the object of this motion.

**President.**—Any information?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I admit that during the past year there had been delay in the supply of medicine. As I have replied to a question put in this House, there was a deviation, a change in the system of supply of medicines. We had to write to Europe and to get their terms to give tender, and they asked me to give them more time to submit their tender and there was some delay. After all, there was some delay, but to make up for all that, I have given all the medicine

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·rom the reserve store. In Appendix 3 to the questions on Tuesday last I have given a table. It was a lean year as far as the supply of medicine was concerned. From this year, the arrears have been paid, new medicines are coming, we will be able to supply freely.

**President.**—I suppose the other hospitals have not complained. Only Vadakkancheri?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I have got the date here. 23rd April 1929.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—A small quantity of medicine.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—This is an extra indent and the reserve store has been completely empty.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 8.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 90,000 for purchase of medicines, etc., by Re. 1.*

**President.**—Motion No. 8.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I don't move that token cut.

*Hence it was considered withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 8—A.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 90,000 for cost of medicines, etc., by Rs. 30,000.*

**President.**—Motion No. 8—A, Mr. Salem.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—That is a substantial cut, to reduce the allotment of Rs. 90,000 by Rs. 30,000.

After I speak I shall seek your permission to reduce that amount by a certain figure. From Rs. 30,000 I may reduce it to any lower figure.

**President.**—Why not you say that now?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I do not know whether in this discussion it would be justifiable to speak on that. Make it Rs. 10,000. Before we start the discussion I wish to make it Rs. 5,000 with deference to the wishes of my Leader.

**President.**—I allow you to reduce the amount.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Sir, I feel that I should have cut the whole Rs. 30,000, but I want also to show that I am not standing in the way of medicines being supplied in plenty to our hospitals. (*Hear, hear.*) My reason for tabling this cut is Rs. 99,000 was asked for last year.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—One lakh.

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**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—And the previous year also Rs. 90,000. But we find that out of the Rs. 90,000 in the previous year Rs. 47,000 was paid for arrears, so that only Rs. 43,000 worth of medicine was purchased. Last year, out of one lakh Rs. 50,000 and odd was paid for arrears, for clearing debts, and, therefore, only Rs. 50,000 is available for medicine. The usual budget grant was in the previous years between Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 66,000. This year we have got the spectacle of a 'lean year,' to take the words of the Hon'ble Member himself. 'Lean year' means that the orders which we sent out to Europe for medicines were not executed in time for our people to get them during this year. It is only coming in Karkadagam. So that, this large quantity of medicines for which indents were sent to Europe will be available for distribution in the hospitals and dispensaries for the remaining part of Karkadagam and for 1105. Therefore, why grant again another Rs. 90,000 for the next year? It is also stated by the Hon'ble Member for Medicine that "I have always a large reserve out of which I tide over difficulties." Now, these medicines will naturally come in the reserve of 1105, and by the time orders go back and come, we will have one lakh worth of medicines for the year 1105, and in 1105 we have again to give for next year. Now that all our debts are over, I don't know whether there is still any debt, if the debts are over, then I submit Rs. 50,000 worth of medicines would be ample, plus medicines that have arrived just now for the year 1105. Therefore, for the House to grant an additional sum of Rs. 40,000 more will be a superfluous amount in my view. Therefore it is that I have restored to the Department the ordinary usual grant that it has been accustomed to have, Rs. 66,000.

**President.**—But Rs. 60,000 was allotted for clearing debts.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—What was happening was, Rs. 60,000 worth of medicines were being ordered every year. It so happened that some balance was paid. It was going on on rolling account. I do not know what all reorganisations have taken place. I have been looking at it. I have not been able to get figures. 60 per cent profit was made, thereby the estimate was also changed, and the correspondence was different.

**President.**—From your point, what quantity of medicine is really required for the coming year? Now that all these debts are cleared, why go in for Rs. 90,000?

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—Have you got any figures to quote?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—That is the point stated. I have

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looked into some previous budgets, not the Council's budgets. I never find at any time medicines to the extent of more than Rs. 66,000 granted.

**President.**—Don't you provide for the larger consumption now?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—That is why I argue that, admitting that larger consumption is necessary, let us see what has been happening during the last three years. We have got Rs.47,000 for wiping off debts in the previous year. But last year it is Rs. 50,000, so that, between the two grants of one lakh twenty thousand rupees, nearly a lakh of rupees went for discharging the debts, and, therefore, only one lakh was available for medicine. If for two years you can go on with one lakh, this year you can surely go on with Rs. 60,000. That is the argument, and, therefore, I think the Government should accept this cut. I want to be liberal to the Medical Department and give as much money as they want, and I, therefore, reduce it into a Rs. 5,000 cut. Therefore, there will not be a misunderstanding that I am standing in the way of spending anything for that Department.

**President.**—Please explain why you want Rs. 90,000 worth of medicine.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—We have heard in this House and we have had complaints that there has been shortage of medicines in dispensaries. During the budget discussion it has been brought to the notice of this House that there is a widespread cry for medicines. (*Hear, hear.*) It has been so, I admit. I say that, after considerable difficulties and submitting ourselves to the complaints that we are hearing in this House, I simply beg Government to give more money for medicines. I have been bringing it to the notice of the Government for the last four years that the allotment is insufficient to meet the increasing demands. The average in Dr. Coombe's time may probably be Rs. 75,000. But then we had to deal with only 2 lakhs of patients. Now it is 5 lakhs and odd.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—This year?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I asked for a lakh and got Rs. 90,000 for 1105.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—What is the average during your time?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Average of what?

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Cost of medicines.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**— I have got the figures worked here.

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**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—What was the amount outstanding as debt when you took charge?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**— From the printed Proceedings of the Legislative Council you will find the information. I cannot answer that question at this moment.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—12 plus 47 plus 50. First year Rs. 12,000, second year Rs. 47,000, third year Rs. 50,000. Total, 109 thousand rupees. All the debt was cleared. What was the legacy that the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer got when he came to the office?

**President.**—How much did we really require for the supply of medicine during the year 1103? Are figures available?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—In 1103 the actual cost of medicines that we received is Rs. 1,03,782 of which Rs. 53,597 was paid during the year leaving 50,185 as arrears, which was paid early in 1104. There must be a clear conception of the whole thing. From the total budget allotment, we have to make an allotment at the beginning of the year to each institution for ordinary bazaar medicines, etc., amounting to Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500.

**President.**—Let that go.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Ice, which is used in the hospital, is bought for Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 a year, anti-rabic vaccine amounts to Rs. 3,000 a year, and then all medicines, instruments, etc.

**President.**—That is to say, taking all these into consideration, how much have we to pay?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—One lakh, three thousand, seven hundred and eighty-two.

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.**—The amount budgetted was only Rs. 95,000.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Yes, but Rs. 50,000 and odd of it was cleared only in 1104.

**President.**—Let us confine ourselves to the year 1103. Let us see whether we can get a fairly accurate statement. Take 1103 and ascertain how much medicine was really required for the use of the hospitals in that particular year (*hear, hear*). If you say one lakh, three thousand and odd, it won't be correct. This year you have budgetted only for Rs. 90,000.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**— It is really so. Please look to the figure in the last column of the budget. The actuals of 1103 is Rs. 1,00,729. This sum is made up of Rs. 47,132 which is the arrears of the previous year paid up in 1103 and Rs. 53,597 paid towards the cost of medicines purchased in that year. After this payment, there was a balance

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of Rs. 50,185 as arrears which was paid in 1104, so that the actual cost of medicines in 1103 is Rs. 53,597 plus Rs. 50,185, viz., 1,03,782.

**President.**—In 1103 we had to purchase for a lakh and three thousand.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—How do you propose to manage with Rs. 90,000 and pay Rs. 50,000 debt out of it?

**President.**—He is referring to it. Let us be sure of the ground.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—

In 1098 it was Rs. 61,000,
in 1099 ,, 74,000 and
in 1100 ,, 73,000.

**Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—I want to know what was the real, actual charge for medicines.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—This is a floating debt.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—I think the Finance Member will be able to give us the information because he has his medicine account.

**Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.**—I cannot say.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**— May I know what is the amount of the debts? Suppose there is a debt of Rs. 50,000 at the end of 1100. You order for the ordinary stock of medicine for 1100. Naturally you cannot pay the whole of the money. For 1100 you pay Rs. 40,000 for medicine. That does not mean you don't buy medicines worth Rs. 90,000. We are not going to corner a Member. We are trying to get facts.

**President.**—It takes place this way. For supplying medicine in a particular year, we are not able to pay the whole amount. The bills are, therefore, carried to the next year. Anyhow we want to see how much was really spent.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—It is only an adjustment. It is a different affair. It will only mean that the firm could not send in time.

**President.**—It has been budgetted that Rs. 90,000 is the cost of medicine for 1105. What we are considering is whether that amount is really necessary. That is the point. If, for a number of years prior to this 1105, we have been getting medicines only for Rs. 60,000 or Rs. 75,000, why then we should budget for Rs. 90,000?

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**— Let us ascertain only one fact. How much medicine was ordered actually in 1103?

**Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—What was the value of the medicine ordered?

**President.**—What was the value of medicine used?

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**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—The first question is how much medicine was ordered. The next question is how much of it was used. How much was in the stores, how much is in the stores? How much money you want for next year? In that we should not introduce the issue of debts.

**President.**—Debts were introduced only for the purpose of noticing what quantity of medicines has been actually bought. Deducting the debts you arrive at the figure.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—Debts will confuse you.

**President.**—Each year full payment is not made. That is carried over to the next year.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I will be able to tell you exactly.

**President.**—Are you able to tell us? Take last year, *i. e.*, 1103. Let us concentrate attention on that. How much medicine did we purchase in that year?

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—Let us have an answer to that.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**— In the beginning of the year 1103 we paid the outstanding arrears of Rs. 47,132. At the close of the year we paid Rs. 53,597 for the cost of medicines.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—How much medicine did you buy?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**— For Rs. 53,597, leaving a balance to remain in 1104 of about Rs. 60,000.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**— That is over a lakh, Rs. 1,03,702. How much out of that medicine remained unused and was taken to the Central Store?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I had to spend about 20 to 30 thousand rupees for local purchases.

**President.**—Deduct this from 1,03, 782. I want to ascertain the actual amount spent for the purchase out of that. Rs. 20 to 30 thousand worth of medicines which have now arrived were not used during the year. Is that so?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Yes. I won't be accurate, but medicine approximately worth that amount has been taken from the Reserve Store and distributed to the hospitals. They may have some balance in each hospital. You cannot make a calculation of the balance of each dispensary.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—So much was spent towards reserve.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—So it is not below Rs. 20,000.

**President.**—If it is Rs. 20,000, Rs. 82,000 worth of medicine was used in that year.

**Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Plus the balance stock of last year.

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**Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—That is all.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—It is simply for the sake of fulfilling an undertaking that I have made here, that all the arrears would be wiped out at the end of 1104, so that we may be on a clear standing in the year 1105, and that I submitted an indent only for the money that was available after payment of all arrears. You may remember that in the budget of 1104 Rs. 50,185 was paid for arrears. There was a balance of nearly Rs. 50,000; out of that an irreducible item of expenditure which I have to spend for local purchases and which comes to about Rs. 25,000 had to be set apart. That left a balance of Rs. 25,000 for the home indent of 1104. That medicine would last only for four months of the year. Then how they managed during the year is by drawing on the reserve. I depleted the medicines that we had in the Central Store, and now the store is empty. On an average I think we have to spend Rs. 80,000 worth of medicines per year. About Rs. 20,000 worth of medicines we had got in the store here for emergency. You will find that every year the number of patients is increasing. In the days of Dr. Coombes it was 2 lakhs. Now it is 5 lakhs. The in-patients have increased in number. If you want to prevent the cry of want of medicines in all these hospital, you have to give a fairly adequate supply.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—But there is a reduction in the number of patients at Trichur. In yesterday's answer it was seen that there was a reduction of patients in the hospitals. You are saying that the number of patients is increasing.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I am speaking about the total.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—So, Trichur is the only place where there is a reduction?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Even in Trichur, I might inform the Member that the number is increasing now.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Let me concentrate. What is the value of the medicine that has arrived this year, in this month?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I suppose about Rs. 23,000.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Out of Rs. 90,000 worth of medicines last year?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I explained just now how Rs. 50,000 was given as arrears. And then I said there is an irreducible expenditure of Rs. 25,000 for local purchase of various items.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I am at figures. Rs. 20,000 worth of

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medicine has arrived. Are there any bills outstanding to be paid? Are these medicines to be distributed to the hospital or to all the hospitals, the stock of medicines for four or five months? There is absolutely nothing in the stores.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Certainly. We must do it immediately.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—There is absolutely nothing in the Central Store. The Rs. 20,000 worth of medicines go straightway to other places for three months. What is the use of having packers and store-keepers in the empty stores? I cannot understand. I thought there was plenty of medicine.

**President.**—The question is, how much money is required for use in a particular year. The provision is Rs. 90,000, and the question is whether this is an adequate provision. That is the point. Even assuming that a little more is budgetted, it is not to be wasted away.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—That is why I want to go to the kernel of the question. There is Rs. 23,000 worth of medicine in Karkadagam, and this amount is available for 1105.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—That is available. It has only just come. It has to be distributed among the various hospitals.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—There are only a few days. Are these medicines, that are going to the respective stations, for 3 months, 6 months or one year?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—They are for four months.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—What about the Stores?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—There are 8 months for which medicines are required. If, for 4 months, you want Rs. 23,000, then for 8 months you want Rs. 46,000. So that is double the provision for a year.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—That is only imported medicine.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Rs. 46,000 of imported medicines would be ample for 1105, because we have got Rs. 23,000 already at the end of the year. That is the statement made by the Hon'ble Member. The Hon'ble Member said that the medicine has just arrived and it is being distributed.

**President.**—Rs. 23,000 plus Rs. 46,000. So we arrive at the quantity of medicine that is required every year.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—For the year 1105.

**President.**—Whether it is for 1105 or not. Now, giving credit for local purchases and others, will it be Rs. 72,000? So, that goes to more than Rs. 90,000.

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**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—May I bring to the notice of the House that, though all arrears outstanding towards the cost of medicines referred to in the previous budgets have been paid up in the current year, a provision of Rs. 90,000 has been made in the budget estimate under 'Cost of medicines, etc.,' which is in excess of the usual provision, exclusive of arrears, by Rs. 15,000? So, usually, we want medicines only for Rs. 75,000. Now the figure is higher.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I move that the question be put.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—I second it.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I oppose it. I want a chance to say a few words.

**President.**—You can't be given a chance. He has withdrawn.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I think that is an abuse of the right of dignity, and it is open to the Chair to look into the rules.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—He must have a right of say.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—No. I oppose it. Put it to vote.

**President.**—What is that paragraph in the Finance Member's speech under 'Medical'?

This is due to the increase in the number of patients in the hospitals. Some reference was made at the previous time also. The explanation is there. So, nothing more has to be explained.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—So much time in a matter like this!

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—No more complaint there should be of waste of medicines. It was all right in those days. Government used to give only Rs. 75,000 year by year, but really speaking, we were getting more. Now we have got a clean statement. I said Rs. 1,03,782 in 1103. I don't go back to 1102. There you find Rs. 94,000 worth of medicine was really got. All these years there would be some balance in the stores, and that has all been spent in 1104, because we did not get adequate supply in time. That I have already explained.

**President.**—Do you want the motion to be put to votes?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I don't want to press it, Sir.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 9.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,270 for tipends and scholarship by Re 1.*

**President.**—Motion No. 9, Mr. A. B. Salem.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I don't move it.

*Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.*

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## Motion No. 10.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,750 for Miscellaneous by Re. 1.*

**President.**—No. 10, Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—I have tabled this motion to press upon the Government the desirability of converting the Vadakkancheri dispensary into a hospital. It is seen that the number of patients has increased largely during the last 4 years. In 1097, the number of patients was over 5,000 only. But the year 1103 closed with a large figure of 21,000 and more of out-patients, and two days back, I understand the number of out-patients in the hospital this year is above 21,000, and there is a corresponding increase in the number of in-patients also. There are only 6 beds in the hospital, and many a person who comes there to be admitted into the hospital has to be sent away because we do not find sufficient accommodation. It is now only a dispensary. There is a hospital in Kunnamkulam, and the other is at Trichur. It is for providing for the better accommodation and treatment of the patients that I press upon the Government to convert this dispensary into a hospital.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Only the number of beds may be increased.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Yes. There may be more of beds. I see it to be a dispensary, with only a few beds there.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—It is a dispensary. Really, there is only accommodation for 6 patients. The principle now is not to spread so many hospitals in the State which will be ill-staffed and ill-managed. In all these places, there will only be one medical man, who cannot do any operation which is required.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—When the State has opened hospitals at Chalakkudi and Adoor, why not have one also at Vadakkancheri? I don't want to digress.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—There is no use of multiplying hospitals all over the State. It is much better to concentrate attention on all the hospitals that we have now and make them more efficient. For the sake of emergency, we are providing emergency beds for all dispensaries. Now, in the two dispensaries that were newly built, one at Pudukkad and the other at Ayyampilli, we are providing emergency beds. At the request of the Hon'ble Member for Pazhayannur, emergency beds were given to the dispensary at Pazhayannur. And so on, we are trying to introduce such beds so as to meet the emergencies. Now, if we are to increase that number and convert

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them into hospitals, the whole establishment will have to be revised and increased. If the State has got enough funds, then, of course, I have no objection. I, as a medical man, will always welcome expansion of medical relief. It is better to confine to the present accommodation. We have got at least 40 dispensaries. So I think they must content themselves.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—As a consolation, you may change that name and call it a hospital.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—I don't want consolation, but I want beds.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—If there is space there, I have no objection for more patients to be admitted. I will send medicines for that.

**President.**—Whatever you can do may be done.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—May I know whether emergency beds have been provided in the Mattancheri hospital so far, whether there was a lady attending a man by name Innocent, who, for want of space there, was taken to the Women's Hospital?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—There is no use of emergency beds there. Innocent was there only for two days.

**President.**—You have withdrawn?

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—If you are willing to provide more beds.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—My point is, that hospital may be placed on the same footing as the others, there being only one hospital in the whole of Talappalli Taluk. And that is the reason why I want to support it. If the Member has withdrawn, of course, I have no objection. A large portion of the Talappalli Taluk has now to depend upon Kunnamkulam. Why not have one at Vadakkancheri also? Then, if you are willing, reduce all the other hospitals into the status of the one at Vadakkancheri. He was advancing the argument that it is better to concentrate attention on the existing hospitals. We don't care. If you are unwilling, take away all the hospitals of the State, and we will be satisfied with our College.

**President.**—I think he has withdrawn the motion.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 11.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,200 for lump provision, 12(600), Rural Dispensaries by Re. 1.*

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—That motion is urged to impress upon the Government the necessity of allowing more than what is now allowed for rural dispensaries, for now an

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amount of only Rs. 240 is allowed for medicine. A larger amount than that may be allowed, and also midwives may be allowed to each of the dispensaries. The difficulty of having midwives in such rural dispensaries is keenly felt. And, therefore, it is these two things that I want to press upon the Government.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—Are there midwives in the General Hospital?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Let there be the clear idea that the rural dispensaries are given only a grant. They are independent. They have got their own dispensaries. It is their property. So that we cannot attach midwives to them. Our idea is to put a midwife in the station.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—May I know the practice in British India in connection with the rural midwives?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Ordinarily they are given an allowance. If they are medical men, then the allowance is increased.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—Then why not give that contribution?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—So far as I am concerned, I have no objection.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—May I go a little further and request the Government to post midwives throughout the country, even where there are no rural dispensaries, because, so far as the delivery cases are concerned, our native treatment is poor, and persons with knowledge of English midwifery may be posted everywhere in the State. Of course, even for two or three villages, one midwife may be appointed.

**President.**—It is well with our Ayurvedic physicians.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Especially native treatment is not good for this.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I have certainly no objection. But we have got a system of education of these country midwives in our hospitals, and after one year's training, we send them as nurses to the hospitals. In this case also, where there are no midwives, we will try.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—May I know what exactly the caste of the country midwives is? Are they of the barber caste?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Whatever it is.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—You don't confine to them alone.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

**Motion No. 12.**

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,96,866 for 1. Hospitals by Re. 1.*

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**President.**—No. 12, Mr. C. J. Mathew.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—This is a cut with reference to the Chalakkudi hospital. Now that new blocks have been constructed there and more beds are provided, the number of patients, both in-patients and out-patients, is steadily increasing. Therefore, it is well-nigh impossible for *one* medical man to cope with the increased bulk of work in such a big hospital as Chalakkudi, which is, I believe, next to the Civil Hospital, Trichur, in point of size and daily attendance. I request the Government to give to that hospital one more medical man, so that two hands may look to the needs of the big number of people crowding there every day.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I would like to make only one remark in connection with this. There is already a medical practitioner there, Mr. Thomas. I would like the Government to ask him if he is willing to serve, if appointed, as an honorary practitioner in the hospital. You cannot appoint a full-time officer, because the expenditure will be very high. In the Madras Presidency, orders have been issued for the entertainment of honorary surgeons in every hospital. You have seen it stated in '*the Hindu*'. In Calicut Tellicherri and other places, honorary men are entertained. Are you going again to refuse to adopt the system of honorary surgeons? Because of your persistent attitude, you do not seem to have an adequate supply of medical practitioners as you ought to have. You said that no useful work would be done by only one surgeon in hospitals. Well, I take it, Sir, that it is an unprofessional thing, a criminal act, and I believe that a criminal court will take notice of it as a criminal act. In certain hospitals minor operations are being conducted even by compounders. It is again an unprofessional and criminal act. If you want to discontinue this system, you must either appoint paid doctors or honorary workers. One of the two things must follow. In the case of paid servants, an enormous expenditure will have to be incurred, and it is for the sake of economy, as I have said already, that we have recommended in the Special Finance Committee's report for the entertainment of honorary medical practitioners. And again I ask the Government that, if and when they find vacancies, they should see if they can get men to work in honorary capacities, and if you do that, you can curtail the old paid system. By that we are saved a large expenditure. In spite of all the other statements, this statement is true. I would like to request the Government to take Mr. Thomas as an honorary medical practitioner.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—We can't go a-begging. It is putting our dignity at stake.

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**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—You must apply. I think the British Government is doing that. Don't you see it in papers now and then? If you get application, take it. What is the begging and all that? How does it put down your dignity? Simply say, 'please send the application, stating the educational qualifications, conditions of service, to the Chief Medical Officer.' I cannot understand the attitude of easily wounding the dignity of the Government. Government's dignity cannot be wounded. That is all I want you to do in this matter. So far as honorary system is concerned, you disbelieve it, and I believe it. That is all the point. We must press our view-points.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—We can express our opinions here. I have admitted the principle of it. I certainly have no objection at all, and I have said that we are willing. I know, as a matter of fact, that there is an incompatibility between honorary system and paid system, and I don't believe that they can work together.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—How do you propose to do it?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—There is no use of accusing me.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Not personal.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—In these matters I have been holding a different view, and our view-points are so different that we shall continue for ever and ever to hold different views. I never said anything about you.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—Unfortunately my point has been missed altogether. I never asked for honorary workers at all. I asked the Government to supply the Chalakkudi Hospital with a paid medical man. So, whether he opposes or supports it, I don't care.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I do oppose the motion. I want to know whether the Government will consider the appointment of Mr. Thomas as an honorary medical practitioner.

**President.**—We are considering now the question of the appointment of an additional surgeon in a particular hospital. You are in favour of one man, Mr. Thomas, or whoever he be. It is just like Kattoor and Karanchira schools. There is a principle that we should adopt. Now you have taken a specific case of Chalakkudi being supplied with an additional surgeon. Is that a point of principle? You can draw the attention of the Government, and they would consider the matter. But there is nothing to be put to the vote of the House.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—Only I was surprised to find that it was given a different colouring.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—When a paid servant is to be appointed, we may recommend to the Government that an honorary

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servant may be appointed.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—May I know what you say with regard to the Chalakkudi Hospital ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—The matter has been reported to Government, and I hope it is being considered. Of course, Chalakkudi Hospital is pre-eminent in the matter of attendance. They have got a new hospital. And so, it is highly desirable to have an additional surgeon there. Of course, it has not been pointedly considered. I may say that the matter will receive my attention.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Also I hope the claim of the Chittur Hospital will not be ignored.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—And also of Irinjalakkuda and Kunnamkulam.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 13.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,266 for Mental Hospital (Total) by Re. 1.*

**President.**—Motion No. 13, Mr. Salem.

**Mr A. B. Salem.**—Sir, I tabled this motion only to know whether the system of visiting the Mental Hospital has improved since the last discussion. One or two Hon'ble Members are visiting those places. I am glad to note that.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—In this connection I would request I may be permitted to say a few words. I may be permitted to move a token motion. I forgot to send in one beforehand.

Now, in the Mental Hospital there is more than one patient lodged in one and the same room. It is a matter of common knowledge that these lunatics are not responsible for their action, and it is not uncommon that they use to exchange blows and mutual compliments among themselves. I say the Government is taking a serious risk in thus lodging two lunatics in one and the same room. If anything happens to them, the Government is responsible, and I do not know whether such a practice of lodging two lunatics in one and the same room is permitted anywhere else. So, what I would suggest is, you should increase the number of cells or have a hall with iron railings and partitions which can be removed and replaced. That is the first point that I want to bring to the notice of the Government.

The second point is: this Department is altogether separate from the other Departments of medical activity. Now, what happens is: a medical man is sent there for a certain term, and he passes through the period as an ordeal, just as a medical man sent to Kuriarkutti. Now, that should not be the spirit in which

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they should work. He must be made to have a desire to study the mental disease, and for that purpose you must pay him at least Rs. 100—150 and provide him with free quarters.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—That they are provided with even now.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I said at least they should be given a pay of Rs. 100—150 and free quarters, because I was afraid to say any other figure. He must also be appointed as a permanent man there, with this proviso, that he shall not take any private practice. Otherwise he would be waiting for the day of receipt of the transfer order, and would not take any interest in the work before him. These are the desirable reforms that should be introduced, *viz.*, one, a permanent Doctor with a decent salary, who may be appointed, not for six months or eight months, but for some years, so that he may have an opportunity and a desire to study the mental disease, and the second is that two lunatics should not be kept in one and the same room. There have been serious cases as a result of your putting two men in the same room. I used to go and visit this place. Of course, it is very difficult for one to watch over them. A man who seems now to be normal all at once will become abnormal. The authorities think that they are all right and put them in one and the same room. Unfortunately at night they lose the balance, and they exchange blows.

Then there is also another point I want to emphasise. There should be a private Lunatic Asylum for people who are willing to pay. If there are people who are willing to pay, they should be given every convenience. There are cases in which people are keeping the lunatics in their own homes. It is a great misery and a burden, but all the same they are keeping them. They may be willing to send them to a private Asylum, if there be one, and they may also be ready to pay. There are several such cases in Trichur. You can have a private Lunatic Asylum attached to the medical institution in another compound like the pay-wards. In the case of people of means, they do not like to send their own relations to this public institution, and Government can do this so far as their feelings are concerned.

**Mr. M. A. Chakko.**—Then there may be religious scruples. They may want a Brahmin cook.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—If you want others to respect your feelings, I expect you to respect others' feelings also. I have been hearing this more than once from the Member for Narakkal. If a Brahmin cook is necessary, you must have one. He says "a Brahmin cook may be necessary" in a very sarcastic way.

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If you want me to respect your religious feelings, you must respect my religious feelings also.

**President.**—Is not this practice of keeping two lunatics in the same room objectionable ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—The matter is before the Government. This year I hope we have provided a certain amount of money to increase the accommodation in the Mental Hospital. It is proposed to make single cells. I may say, however, for the information of the House, that all the lunatics in the Asylum are not put in a single cell. There is a stage when they are called harmless lunatics, and it is when they are absolutely harmless that two are put in the same cell. Anyhow, the matter is before the Government for increasing the accommodation, and we have provided a certain sum of money.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—May I ask you, Sir, whether you can guarantee their harmlessness, and whether lunacy would not up rise suddenly owing to emotion ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—In all the other institutions like the Mental Hospital there are rooms where 3 and 4 and half-a-dozen are put together. In Calicut and in Madras especially this is the case. With regard to downright lunatics, they are kept separate.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—That is why I said you may have iron bars. I was very careful.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese** —Anyhow, what we are going to do is to provide accommodation in single rooms. I think I have also brought to the notice of the Government that the name "Lunatic Asylum" may be changed, and it may be called "Mental Hospital". That will have a better outlook for the people. There have been enquiries whether private patients would be taken, and as a consequence I have represented that matter of providing pay-wards to Government. That is being done everywhere, even in advanced countries, and I don't think we should hesitate to provide a pay-ward in the Mental Hospital.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 14.

Mr A B Salem.—*To reauce the allotment of Rs, 18,526 for Leper Asylum by Re 1.*

**President.**—Motion No. 14 Mr. Salem.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I have sent a token motion. That is No. 14, about the Leper Asylum. I have tabled this motion for the purpose of calling the attention of the Government to the very bad state of things in the Venduruthi Leper Asylum. The

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Leper Asylum is situated very near Ernakulam. I put a question in this House as to the number of visits that the honorary visitors have paid to the Leper Asylum, and I am very pleased to note that not a single visit has been paid. No doubt, such visitors deserve congratulation at our hands, because they thought that the conditions were so very satisfactory that they thought no visit was needed. But when we went there, we found that the condition was admittedly miserable. In every way those poor people are suffering there, and I believe there are many cases of assault and many cases of maltreatment and so many undesirable things which take place there. It is only to call the attention of the Government pointedly to this fact that I have tabled this motion. I request the Government will cause the honorary visitors to resign their places, and give room at least for other men who take some interest and who are willing to look after this poor, miserable portion of humanity with a little more sympathy and kindness, and also I press upon the Government to give a little more redress and a little more relief for them.

**President.**—Have not the honorary visitors been visiting?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Who are the honorary visitors?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—All that has been answered here before.

**President.**—Nobody has visited?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—No.

**President.**—If they are not going there properly, why not get their resignation and appoint other persons, who will take interest in it?

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—But does the board exist and function now?

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—The names of the visitors, please?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I do not remember.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Sudden loss of memory.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Is it so, Sir?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I remember one is Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.

**President.**—You remember anything about them, Mr. Krishna Menon?

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—There were two Reverend Gentlemen. Of these one, Father Dominic, is dead; the name of the other I do not remember. The late Mr. Brown was another, I believe.

I never used to go in company for this reason: if we went together, they, the patients I mean, did not tell us all that they had to say. So I always took care to go separately and ask them what they wanted. But, latterly, I began to notice that

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they had more complaints than could be satisfied by an honorary visitor or even by the Government. So I thought I would see them in a better place like Adoor.

As for the interest that I take, I think the Chief Medical Officer knows about it.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Oh yes.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—Simply because a visitor does not visit the Asylum, there is no meaning in saying that he has no interest in the well-being of its inmates. Formerly, I used to go there often to see these people.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Is not a Visitors' Book kept there?

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—I invariably did not write anything in the Visitors' Book. I used to write to the Chief Medical Officer, when necessary; at times, confidentially.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—There is a Visitors' Book kept there, and you could have written anything that you had to write. Your remarks will not be expunged from that book, you being appointed by the Government.

**President.**—Conditions will change when we shift to Adoor.

**Mr. A. B. Saiem.**—What I want is, something should be done for these people. If any report or letter has been received by the Chief Medical Officer, and if no action has been taken, then matters will be worse. My only complaint is that there is no one to look after these people. It is said that no remarks have been received. I did not ask whether any remarks have been made in the Visitors' Book by the honorary visitors; I asked whether there were any visits by these visitors and whether there were any remarks made by them, and the answer was 'no'. Whether it be in a letter or in the Visitors' Book, it is a remark. But the answer is, no remarks have been made. But now they say there were so many private reports, confidential kinds of report and other kinds of report, and all these things are going on.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—They are looked after by the Government. What can the honorary visitors do?

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 15.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,28,700 under Demand No. XXI by Re. 1.*

**Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.**—I have tabled this motion (No. 15) to bring to your notice that, in the Chittur Taluk, in the malarial areas, the distribution of quinine is left to the temperament of the officers, and there is also the other system of issuing

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chits for quinine. I want the Government to take notice of this and conduct an enquiry into the same or remedy the same.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I did not catch what the Hon'ble Member said.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Distribution of quinine.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I may say that 80 pounds of quinine were distributed to the hospitals of the Chittur Taluk, a quantity which has never been reached before. There is no complaint. In addition to that, in rural areas, rural malarial tracts, 30 pounds of quinine have been distributed.

**Mr. A. S. Hariharą Ayyar.**—Are we to take it that the quinine that is supplied by the Government is finding its way to other shops ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I cannot answer that.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motion No. 16.

Mr. A. K. Kunhi Moideen.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,41,798 for Demand No. XXI by Re. 1.*

**President.**—Motion No. 16, Mr. A. K. Kunhi Moideen.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.— ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം ചേന്ദമംഗലം വില്ലേജിൽ ഒരു ഡിസ്പെൻസറി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണമെന്നു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുവാനാണ്. ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഈയ്യിടെ അവിടെ ചെന്നിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾ ഒരു മെമ്മോറിയൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചതിൽ അവരുടെ അത്യാവശ്യങ്ങളും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും കാണിച്ചിരുന്നു. അതിൽ ഈ സംഗതിക്കു പ്രാധാന്യം കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു. അടുത്തദിവസം എന്റെ ചോദ്യത്തിന്നു മറുപടിയായി കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ഒരു ആസ്പത്രിയുള്ളതു കൊണ്ട് കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടാമെന്നും വേണമെങ്കിൽ മറ്റെല്ലാദിക്കിലും ഓരോന്നു സ്ഥാപിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞതിന്നുശേഷം ഒരു റൂറൽ ഡിസ്പെൻസറി വെച്ചുകൊടുക്കാമെന്നുമാണു പറഞ്ഞത്. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ആസ്പത്രിയുണ്ടെന്നു ചേന്ദമങ്ങലത്തുകാർ അറിയാത്തതല്ല. എന്നാൽ അവിടെ ചെന്നെത്തുവാൻ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ ഉണ്ട്. ഒരു വലിയ പുഴയും കടക്കണം. വർഷക്കാലത്തു ഇത് വളരെ അസാദ്ധ്യമായിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. പറവൂരും, ഏറണാകുളത്തും ഇതിനേക്കാൾ വലിയ ആസ്പത്രികളുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ അതുകൊണ്ടൊന്നും അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടതകൾ തീരുന്നതല്ല. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നു ദയവായി ഒരു ഡിസ്പെൻസറി അവർക്ക് ഉടനെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുക തന്നെവേണം. ഇനി കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ഉള്ള ഡിസ്പെൻസറിതന്നെ അവിടേക്കു മതിയാകുന്നില്ല. ആവശ്യത്തിനു തക്കതായ കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ പണിയിക്കുവാൻ ഭാവിക്കുന്നേയുള്ളൂ. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ, ചേന്ദമങ്ങലം, ഇടവിലങ്ങു, ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ മറ്റൊരു കൊടുക്കു

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ന്ന ചിലവ് കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ വകയാണ്. അതിന്ന ശവമ്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്ന വീതം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതും ആണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട ഈ സംഗതികം ആലോചിച്ച ശവമ്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ അല്ലലിന്ന ഒരു സമാധാനമുണ്ടാക്കുത്തരണമെന്ന ബലമായി അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഐ. ഇ. അസൂക്കൻ.—ഇതു വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ചേന്ദമങ്ങലത്തുനിന്ന കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിലേക്ക ശവമ്മെണ്ടു കണക്കുപ്രകാരം 2 നാഴികയെയുള്ളു എങ്കിലും ആസ്പത്തിയിലേക്ക് 8 നാഴികയോളം കാണും. ഇതിന്ന പുറമെ വർഷക്കാലത്തു ആവഴി ഏറ്റവും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടം അപകടവും ഉള്ളതായിരിക്കും. ഈ വഴിയിൽ കൂടി ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ നിന്ന അഞ്ചാത്തിക്കിരിക്കു അവിടെ വരുന്നതിന്നും വലിയ പ്രയാസം തന്നെ. അതുകൊണ്ടു ചേന്ദമംഗലത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിക്കും ധനസ്ഥിതിക്കും ഒരു ഡിസ്പെൻസറി വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Sir, a part of my constituency is Chennamangalam and I have had this complaint brought to me particularly by the Synagogue people there. I visited that place with the Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas, and they made this complaint during one of our visits to Thekkekara. They prayed that at least a small dispensary might be caused to be opened in that place.

**President.**—A rural dispensary will do ?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—At least a rural dispensary may be started.

**President.**—We are going to open 3 this year.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—They are in Cheruthuruthi, Kumbalam and Vadavukode.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Last year it was said that one would be opened at Chennamangalam.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**— No. They are really well off as regards medical relief, because within 3 miles they have got one hospital in Cranganur and another in Paroor.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**— But they are surrounded by water. That is the difficulty.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—What is the real objection to open a dispensary there ? Is it money ?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Yes.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—If you can spend 15 lakhs on a model College by shifting an excellent College here for the benefit of what now is a wilderness, why not these poor people be provided with a dispensary ?

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**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—The matter may be graciously considered.

*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*

## Motions Nos. 17—19.

Dr. A. R. Menon.— *To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,28,700 under Demand No. XXI by Re. 1.*
*Do. Do. by Re. 1.*
*Do. Do. by Re. 1.*

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**— Sir, there are three cut motions that I have given notice of. They are 17, 18 and 19. For want of time I shall not speak on all, but shall confine myself to one, and that also to touch upon one or two features of the administration of the Department.

*The first two motions were considered withdrawn.*

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—The point I am dealing with is one which requires careful handling, and I shall be very careful in saying a few words on a topic which vitally affects the medical administration in this State. I mean the demoralisation that has set in in the various hospitals owing to various causes, some of which are apparent and some of which are not so easily understood but can be imagined.

I want the House to realise, when I make a sort of declaration, that all the facts that I have been able to gather are from outside sources and no medical man is responsible for any information that I give here. As a matter of fact, I have even been dissuaded by them not to mention this in the Council. This assurance, I hope and expect, the Government will accept in toto.

In the Trichur Hospital the demoralisation has gone so far that, when a Sub-Assistant Surgeon was asked to give an injection, he turned round and said that he did not believe in that injection and refused to do so. When the Civil Surgeon goes into the hospital, I myself have seen these people sitting on the table with an attitude of defiance. Not that I care a bit about the dignity of the Civil Surgeon, but the discipline of the hospital is an essential factor for its utility and for its public purpose. When I see, and when people see this sort of bickering, quarrelling and indiscipline going on in the hospital, the hospital loses its prestige. Similarly, this same state of affairs continues in the General Hospital itself.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—'Continues' or 'continued'?

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**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—Continues in the General Hospital at Ernakulam. Instead of colleagues working together, co-operating loyally, as we see in all institutions, we see here one pulling the string one way and another pulling the string another way, and a sort of discontent which is followed by demoralisation is perceived. I regretted that I will have to bring this fact to the notice of the Government, but after mature consideration, I thought, irrespective of any other consideration, that it is my duty to bring to the notice of the Government this state of affairs.

What are the causes of this? I think I can gauge more or less, but I do not propose to say that. I shall give one instance. Yesterday, when a question was asked, I think, by the Member for Kunnamkulam, about certain irregularities in the Civil Hospital, the answer was given in such freedom and such genuine pleasure that no other Head of a Department has ever given when concerning his own Department. That gives me the hint.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—I never asked a question like that.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—It was the Member for Palluruthi. I beg your pardon.

That gives the hint of what is taking place. I do not know of any other Head of a Department like this, and I honour him for it. When we press a question, and when we find fault with him as far as possible, he may conscientiously try to defend his subordinates.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—On a point of order. May I know what is the extraordinary freedom that the Chief Medical Officer took in answering that question?

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I was besieged when I was interrupted so happily by the Member for Chalakkudi! That really gives us the hint of what is really taking place—I mean that answer. I made further enquiries in the matter in Ernakulam also, and I assure the Government that the same state of affairs is going on here. I shall not mention any names. It is for the Government to make the necessary enquiries and find out the truth of these statements here. That is one thing. I won't proceed further on that topic.

The second point is: two years ago, I addressed a question to this effect, why certain medical men are kept in one and the same place against the Standing Order of the Government. There was an interpretation about the wording, and the Chief Medical Officer claimed that there was no obligation, and I, on the other hand, claimed that there was obligation as the section stood, and I believe, the President intervened and said "why not observe the rules laid down." That was two years ago. After 18 months, a question was addressed by the Member

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for the Jenmies on the same topic about the same individuals concerned, and the answer was "we are waiting for the return of Messrs. Verghese and Puduval, because we cannot send these gentlemen to some other place as they are doing their work." Now they have returned, and these gentlemen are still retained. I want to know why certain selected hospitals are given to certain people, hospitals which every member of the medical profession is anxious to get hold of. Different hospitals have got different scope for work. Why is it that certain hospitals are reserved for certain people? Why, in defiance of the Standing Order, these people were not transferred, in spite of even the recommendation, or the wish or, I shall say, suggestion from the Chair, that rules laid down should be observed? Why was this allowed? Why was the wish of the Chair not carried out? Did I not tell you then that this sort of thing creates a sort of discontent among your subordinates with the Chief, and this will give room for others to say that they are the favourites of our Chief? I say it is the solemn duty on the part of the Head of the Department to deal as far as possible impartially, without giving any unnecessary irritation to the subordinates. I proclaim it is the solemn duty on your part to be impartial and to show no discrimination. Once the people begin to realise that there has been discrimination,—it may be right, it may not be the intention—but once discrimination is effected, demoralisation sets in. I pointed out this to you, and I say, what I have pointed out in each case has actually taken place. I repeat discontent and demoralisation are prevalent in the Medical Department, and I only say this much as a general remark, that no career established on the foundation of injustice watered by favouritism shall thrive, and if it thrives, it shall bring forth fruits which shall be vitiated by bitterness for the man who eats them.

*The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and re-assembled at 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.*

## Demands for Supplementary Grants.—(*Contd.*)

### 3. XXXII—Miscellaneous—Special allowance to the subordinate staff.

**Deputy President.**—Supplementary grant.

**Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.**—Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 10,800 under 'XXXII—Miscellaneous—Special Allowance to the subordinate staff.'

In doing so, I may invite a reference to the Proceedings of the last Budget Session when the House refused the provision

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of Rs. 2,00,000, provided by the Government in the preliminary budget as a lump provision for the reorganisation of Departments in connection with the report of the Special Finance Committee, but granted instead only a sum of Rs. 30,000, in the words of the Leader of the Progressive Party, Dr. A. G. Menon, "just to force the Government to bring this matter and to place the Special Finance Committee's report as early as possible and take action on our deliberations; so we give Rs. 30,000." Government were trying to pass early orders on the report, but owing to numerous difficulties which the Diwan President has pointed out already, the reorganisation scheme could not be brought into effect during the current year, and hence the special allowance to our low-paid officers drawing between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20 per mensem was continued throughout the year anticipating the whole-hearted support of the House in such a measure, about which there was no difference of opinion, and thinking that it would be extremely hard to deny these subordinates the allowance they were enjoying, on the ground that the Council had not voted the additional grant. It is found that the expenditure, on account of the special allowance up to the end of Edavam, the accounts of which are being got ready, has come to Rs. 34,230-8-5, and it is likely that the payments in Mithunam and Karkadagam might have come to Rs. 6,500, thus making it probable that the budget allotment of Rs. 30,000 would be exceeded by Rs. 10,800 in round figures.

I request that the House may be pleased to grant the allotment. I may also add that the item has been scrutinised by the Standing Finance Committee.

Question proposed: *That the additional grant asked for may be granted.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

## Voting of Demands for Grants (*contd.*).

## 15. XXI—Medical—(*contd.*)—Rs. 2,41,798.

**Deputy President.**—Before we begin to discuss, I wish to point out one fact, that we have got three or four Departments, and the time at our disposal is 2 hours. Cranganur stands altogether apart from the other budgets, and the Member for Cranganur may have to say something. I hope you will try to finish the other cuts as early as possible, so as to give him at least one hour. I don't think, under the Rules, I can give preference.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—ഭിവാൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ട് ഇന്നലെ ഉറന്നപാകയുണ്ടായി ഉച്ചതിരിഞ്ഞു Cranganur budget എടുക്കാമെന്നു.

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ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡണ്ട്.—ഒരു ഒന്നു വിരോധമായിട്ടായാൽ എന്തു ചെയ്യും? അജൻറാ പേപ്പറിലൊന്നു, മിഡ്വാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു വേറെ ഒന്നു. എന്തുചെയ്യും? അജൻറാ പേപ്പർ follow ചെയ്യാതെ തരമില്ല.

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—Sir, on a point of information. Whether any complaint is reported to the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer about the Sub-Assistant Surgeons for Irinjalakkuda and Trichur about the injections?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Irinjalakkuda?

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—No, Trichur.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—No complaint. The matter has not been officially brought to my notice.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—No statement in the Press also.

**Deputy President.**—Have you to say anything by way of reply? You must try to cut short as far as possible.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I shall be as brief as possible.

There is an old English proverb "take the bull by the horns". It is a wise saying which has stood me in good stead before. The Hon'ble Member who made his criticisms last has got personal experience that, in his case, once I had to take the bull by the horns. By advice and from motives of restraint and forbearance, I refrained from making any remarks on certain insane criticisms made of me personally in the course of the Proceedings of this Council.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Insane? Is it parliamentary, Sir?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Unsane, if you please.

I now take the opportunity to offer a few remarks on those wild, outlandish aspersions that were made on me. Sourrilous, personal aspersions were made with unbridled license in the Council. Believe me, Sir, I consider it a duty I owe to myself to place on record my refutation of those offensive statements couched in objectionable terms and proclaimed in this House against me personally, lest the absence of such a recorded protest should lead to a mistaken impression abroad in the outside world, where I am known, and among men who are not conversant with the undercurrent of local non-official politics. Nothing would be more painful to me than to be regarded as an unwitting agent in electrifying an atmosphere, for which I now see there is no chance, because the Members who made those criticisms are not here now. I say, in electrifying an atmosphere which, after the thunder and storm, is seemingly calm andserene. It is my

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humble and, I believe, legitimate desire, that the future historian of the Cochin Legislative Council should not pass judgment on me by default for want of a record of the fact that the Members, who made those extravagant statements regarding my official connection in this State and my conduct in this Council in particular, have been men who have borne and nursed private grievances for discomfiture they have received at my hands outside the walls of this House in the discharge of my official duties. I wish to point out that this is the fountain from which many bitter waters, through many different conduits, have flowed into the floor of this House. The attempt to hold me up as if I were a Rasputin in the Cochin State is traceable to the same envenomed source. I do not for a moment desire to enter into a controversial encounter on the subject, because the pages of the published Proceedings of the Council would bear convincing testimony to my assertion. Sir, foiled and discomfited outside, they have come to this House and have not only tainted the serious transactions of this House with the venom of their grudge, but have succeeded in shaking the pillars of concord upon which this institution should have been reared, and in loosening the cement of sympathy and co-operation which should have existed between the two sides of this House. Sir, it only remains for me to wash off the dirt that has been flung upon me by washing myself in the limpid stream of their own orations.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—So much the better.

**Deputy President.**—Better confine to the point. Only three minutes more. Ordinarily only 10 minutes.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Mr. A. B. Salem states:—'I am second to none in my admiration of the efficiency of our present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer'. 'I yield to none in my admiration of his services to the State'. 'We could not get a better gentleman than the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer in the General Hospital'.

**Deputy President.**—Of course, even now he does not say anything against you.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—He said I am overriding all the Heads of Departments.

**Deputy President.**—Your efficiency as the Head of the Department was never questioned.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**— I then pass on to the special criticisms that were advanced against the Department just now.

**Deputy President.**—Better that these things are not said.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—It has been discussed.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Why should we add to it?

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**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Let him also add to it.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I take the advice given by the President and the Hon'ble Member, and refrain from proceeding further. I cannot help remarking, because things have been attributed to me of which I know nothing at all, that it is this type of Members that is the cause of discontent and indiscipline in the Department.

*As Dr. A. R. Menon was absent, the motion was considered withdrawn.*

### Motion No. 20.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,41,798 for Medical.*

**Deputy President.**—Motion No. 20, Mr. Salem. He i absent.

*Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.*

Question proposed: *That the demand for Medical be passed*

*Question put and agreed to.*

## 16. XXII—Vaccination—Rs. 8,700.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Sir, I beg to move for an allotment of Rs. 8,700 under 'Vaccination'. I have no remarks to offer about this because there is no difference at all.

### Motions Nos. 21—22.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,300 for cost of lymph by Re. 1.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 8,700 for item Vaccination.*

**Deputy President.**—Mr. Salem is not present to move his motions.

*Hence these motions were considered withdrawn.*

Question proposed: *That the demand for Vaccination be granted by the House.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

## 17. XXIII—Sanitation and Conservancy—Rs. 59,900.

**Deputy President.**—Demand No. XXIII.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Sir, I rise to apply for an allotment of Rs. 59,900 for 'Sanitation and Conservancy'.

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